

January 17, 2022

Marc Elrich, President  
Montgomery County Council  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: Health Regulation to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the County—Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Recreation Centers, and Other Covered Establishments

**Written Testimony Submitted in OPPOSITION**

**SUBMITTED VIA FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL AND VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION.**

Dear President Elrich:

My name is Kyle Sefcik, I have been a resident of Montgomery County my entire life. I am submitting my written testimony as both business owner and life-long resident of Montgomery County. As the owner of two health-related businesses I offer a unique perspective on the proposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate. I have been an active member of my community, and have received awards from the Montgomery County Council for my service related work. Throughout the last decade, I have served tens of thousands of individuals in Montgomery County through community events such as: Girl Power, Salvadorian Festival, Oktoberfest, Special Needs Dance, and directly through my gyms, and my volunteer work with other non-profit and community organizations. I am a gym owner, a health professional and an athlete.

First from the perspective of a health professional, the COVID-19 vaccine is not the safe and effective product that the prevailing narrative would have us believe. A cursory review of the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting (VAERS) provides ample evidence of the thousands of lives which have been negatively impacted from receipt of the COVID-19 vaccines, and this database represents only one percent (1%) of the actual adverse events. (CITE). Given the large number of

adverse reactions it is reckless for this County to pass a law which could create serious liability issues for the businesses that you seek to have enforce this measure. This brings me to my second point. As a business owner, I will be forced to implement an unconstitutional law which directly impacts the personal lives of my customers and establishes a discriminatory climate, possibly exposing my business to liability issues.

As an individual, I am concerned how this law will impact my health and my daily life as a resident of Montgomery County. I am a professional athlete (MMA) and health professional, I take my health, and the health of those around me very seriously. My health is my livelihood, and a life-long commitment. As someone who owns a health gym and competes in the toughest sport in the world, I can tell you that your proposed law for the purpose of keeping our community safe and healthy does neither. Not only is the proposed COVID-19 vaccine “passport” unconstitutional as a violation of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> amendments, it is also unnecessary, and potentially harmful to the wider community. If implemented, this law will cause even more divisiveness and problems in our county, as it is illegal and immoral segregation. A possible opening into something much more negative, that will be difficult to come back from. The enforcement of a vaccine passport, particularly if you are requiring businesses to aid in the enforcement, will also contribute to hatred and fear already so prevalent in our communities.

As a community leader who spends a great deal of time building networks with fellow business owners, I can assure you that most business owners and people in this County do not want, or need vaccine passports. Vaccine passports are immoral and inappropriate at best, and harken to darker times in our collective history at worst. Businesses that follow a mandate of vaccination passports will expose themselves to potential lawsuits for segregation and the violation of other rights. The fact that this is being pushed on the premise of “this is for our safety” is a scary claim to live by, particularly in light of the fact of the ample adverse reactions that have been reported to the government. This is not just my perspective, but the opinion of many, many members of the community. Members that will remember

the actions that each individual council member takes when they cast their ballots in November.

For these reasons, as a resident and business owner of Montgomery County, I urge you to vote against passing this, or any other legislation, which requires proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter any public establishment.

Sincerely,

Kyle Sefcik